



RI Department of Behavioral Healthcare,
Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals (BHDDH)



Rally4Recovery

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Rhode Island Rally for Recovery Celebrates 10th Anniversary During 2012 National Recovery Month

**Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts, Congressman James Langevin,
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA)
Regional Administrator A. Kathryn Power are Among Guest Speakers at the Event**

Cranston, RI, August, 2012 – The Rhode Island Recovery Month Coalition and the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) will co-host the tenth annual Rhode Island Rally for Recovery on Saturday, September 15 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Roger Williams National Memorial, 282 North Main Street in Providence. The Rhode Island Rally is the State's signature event marking National Recovery Month each year.

The Rally brings together diverse segments of the recovery community including people in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction, mental illness and individuals with developmental disabilities. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness by letting Rhode Islanders know that people can and do recover, and there are many pathways to recovery. This year's theme for National Recovery Month is "Join the Voices for Recovery: It's Worth It." The theme emphasizes that, while the road to recovery may be difficult, the benefits of preventing and overcoming mental disorders and/or addiction are significant and valuable to everyone - individuals, families, and communities.

"Holding this event is a way for us to provide people in recovery with the opportunity to share their stories," says Craig Stenning, Director of BHDDH and emcee for the event. "It is important for all Rhode Islanders to know that people with addiction and mental health issues don't have to be limited by them. It is wonderful to work with individuals in recovery because they allow us to join them on their paths to recovery. They do the hard work and we provide the tools and supports they need to reach their goals."

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"It is a day that we can all celebrate with our friends, families and allies and a day to take pride in being people in recovery," says Jim Gillen, Director of the Anchor Recovery Center and Co-chairman of the Rally, "I am especially proud of the way our State comes together to make this a special day for all Rhode Islanders."

Data indicates that rates of addiction and mental illness are higher in Rhode Island than across the country. It is important to spread the message that these conditions are common, people do recover, and prevention, treatment, recovery services and community supports are available and effective.

Over 4,000 people participated in last year's Rally, and more are expected to attend this year. Entertainment will include musical performances by the Rockers in Recovery and "The Governor's Own" Rhode Island National Guard 88th Army Band.

Speakers at the event include Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Representative James Langevin, Mayor Angel Taveras, A.T. Wall, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, and A. Kathryn Power, Regional Administrator, Region 1, of SAMHSA. For more information, visit www.rally4recovery.com.

About the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals.

BHDDH is committed to assuring access to quality services and supports for Rhode Islanders with developmental disabilities, mental health and substance abuse issues, and chronic, long-term medical and psychiatric conditions. In addition to planning for the development of new services and prevention activities, the mission of the department includes addressing the stigma attached to these disabilities.

About the Rhode Island Recovery Month Coalition

The Rhode Island Recovery Month Coalition includes treatment and recovery service providers, family members, and friends and advocates for recovery. The coalition strives to improve the quality of life of veterans and other individuals in recovery and highlight their accomplishments.

About National Recovery Month

National Recovery Month is an initiative of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), within the Department of Health and Human Services. The goal of this initiative is to increase the understanding of behavioral health and reinforce the message that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover.

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Rally Event Sponsors: Rhode Island Senate, The Providence Center, Seven Hills Rhode Island, Seven Hills Behavioral Health, Gateway Healthcare and Phoenix Houses of New England.
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